

## Frank's second interview

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2 **Interviewer:** In your journal and in the interview, Frank, you reflected on how  
3 your faith had changed as you were growing up. And one of the  
4 things that came through was God was for you someone who  
5 was friendly and someone who watched over you and guided  
6 you, and so on. Is there anything further that you'd like to add?

7 **Frank:** Ah, I still have the same – same view there to help out just to  
8 run the place, I s'pose.

9 **Interviewer:** Okay. So God runs the place?

10 **Frank:** Yeah.

11 **Interviewer:** What – what does that mean for you? Could you expand on  
12 that?

13 **Frank:** Well, obviously, he gave us free will, so we choose our own  
14 directions, but – um – to – to – to help people when they're  
15 struggling – um – in the "Footprints" – um – it's not really a  
16 poem, is it? But, yeah, jus' – ah – I keep that view – um – yeah  
17 – ah – even specifically when we – when we don't actually ask –  
18 um – just to – to be there to help out an' (pause) yeah.

19 **Interviewer:** Okay. Does Frank the plumber see things differently from Frank  
20 the student?

21 **Frank:** Um – well, I s'pose that would have to do with maturing – ah –  
22 the – from when you leave high school and – ah – hence, quite  
23 a big difference. Um – y' know, when you're working full time  
24 that would make the biggest difference, I think, how you see life.  
25 Ah – in terms of faith – ah – not – not really a lot 'cause I feel  
26 that I've done most of my – um – spiritual maturing – um – in my  
27 school life through RE.

28 **Interviewer:** So what about the sort of role you play in the work you do?  
29 Does that show you different things about God?

30 **Frank:** Um – I haven't really thought about it before. Ah – I – I don't  
31 really think so. No, an' I – ah – I always thought quite broadly  
32 about – um – about God in high school and we were given the  
33 places to think and discuss that, so – um – yeah. Ah – I don't  
34 think it really does.

35 **Interviewer:** Can you think of anything that you might want to say about – ah  
36 – the people, such as your Mum and Dad, your brother and your  
37 sisters, an' your friends and their influences on you in your  
38 relationship with God?

39 **Frank:** Um – my parents are the same really. They're always there for  
40 support – um – they're quite spiritual. Um – an' they – they're –  
41 ah – a lot of people that – yeah – aren't religious, it's difficult to  
42 speak about these kinds of things, especially at work, they are  
43 not particularly religious bunch of people in the construction  
44 industry. Um – the – the support's still there even if it's from a

45 different angle. Ah – my friends are – quite a few of them were  
 46 actually in my RE class, an' we always have conversations like  
 47 that, not your ordinary eighteen year-olds talk about quite a  
 48 variety of things. Um – so the support is there an' open to  
 49 discussion, but – um – yeah, I think you can feel pressure about  
 50 religious beliefs from people outside that, y' know – um – aren't  
 51 religious people. There – definitely the support's still there for  
 52 me.

53 **Interviewer:** Okay. The sort of pressure from outside: would you like to  
 54 reflect on that a bit?

55 **Frank:** Um – yes. It'd be – ah – I haven't, y' know, personally been  
 56 ridiculed or anything, but you can sense that – um – people's  
 57 views on these faith things – I don't know whether they feel that  
 58 – um – they've been – ah – betrayed comes to mind, but I don't  
 59 think that's the best choice of word – ah – kinda left if they did  
 60 think about God before and believe in God. They'd feel left by  
 61 God and – ah – become disbelievers. Um – that may be where  
 62 they're coming from, but – um – just don't – don't believe in it  
 63 and – um – I think sometimes – ah – the (pause) might show  
 64 kinda way of dealing with things can be to ridicule. Ah – so that  
 65 – that may be (pause) yeah.

66 **Interviewer:** So does that mean you have a different view of life from some of  
 67 the people you work with?

68 **Frank:** Yes, definitely, definitely. Yes, that's not really a discussion  
 69 (laughs) that we have at work, anything like that.

70 **Interviewer:** So how does it come about that you discover that people you  
 71 work with have a different view of life?

72 **Frank:** Um – I s'pose talking at lunch things can come up – um – say –  
 73 oh, actually I remember one time – ah – we were talking about a  
 74 – um – a man they used to have there as a machine operator for  
 75 excavating. He passed away late last year an' one of them  
 76 mentioned, y' know, it's a shame when people like that go  
 77 because that's it, they're dead. There's no after world. An' he  
 78 was quite blunt about it. An' being new in the job, I didn't think  
 79 I'd really say anything. But, yeah – um – I think that particular  
 80 man had – had – um – quite – ah – a tough time through life, so  
 81 that may be the cause of that.

82 **Interviewer:** How do you handle that yourself, being with people who don't  
 83 have the same sort of belief?

84 **Frank:** Well, my upbringing has been to be open-minded – um – an' to  
 85 not force what you believe or what you think upon others. Um –  
 86 in short to discuss things – um – to – ah – let people know of –  
 87 of your opinion but not to force it on them. Um – y' know, it  
 88 stems from a number of things. There's – ah – racism – um – to  
 89 be open about that. Just because someone's a different colour  
 90 doesn't mean they're a better or worse person just because  
 91 someone may not believe in God doesn't mean they – they're a

92 worse person. Um – as long as they – um – y’ know, I s’pose,  
 93 follow the ten commandments, but not specifically because they  
 94 are the ten commandments. Just to be nice to other people an’  
 95 – um – general respect, I s’pose. So I find it quite easy to deal  
 96 with – um – and – um – also quite a relaxed person. An’ so,  
 97 yeah, I don’t find it difficult at all.

98 **Interviewer:** Good. Would you like to add anything else about prayer and  
 99 your relationship with God?

100 **Frank:** Um – well, being eighteen, ah – going out at night is a new  
 101 experience, so generally, on Saturday night is the night to go  
 102 out, so sometimes getting up on Sunday – ah – if you’ve been  
 103 out ’til one in the morning, it’s a bit difficult, so I’ve been missing  
 104 Mass a bit – um but still – ah – not so much the formal prayer bit  
 105 – um – just, y’ know, the appreciation for what we have and I  
 106 had one of those moments today. Driving along, just thought  
 107 how great life is. Um – even – even though I’m not doing the  
 108 formal expression of it, it’s still there. Um – yeah.

109 **Interviewer:** Does your family life help you in that sense?

110 **Frank:** Yes – um – yeah, my – my parents don’t force me to go to  
 111 Mass, or anything. Um – yeah, when – when I do go, Mum  
 112 mentions that and how nice it is, though. Yeah, we still talk –  
 113 um – religious things – ah, especially with – when Granma  
 114 comes around. Generally, they talk about the homily, or  
 115 whatever, so I can catch up. Um – yeah – ah – I think my Dad  
 116 probably has the same kind of view as myself about the – ah –  
 117 importance being on how you treat others, how you live your life,  
 118 rather than the – the formal side of it. It is important to go to  
 119 Church – um – carry on with the traditions and the rituals, an’ –  
 120 ah – to express things ’cause the community – ah – is a very big  
 121 factor an’ – an’ um – it’s – yeah, the main emphasis – emphasis  
 122 to be on – um – just general life.

123 **Interviewer:** Good. What about your experience of school and your RE  
 124 classes and your teachers and even those in class with you?  
 125 From all the things you said in the past and wrote about, does  
 126 anything at this point pop into your mind about them?

127 **Frank:** Um – jus’ thankful for those RE classes, yeah. It’s a protected  
 128 environment – um – where everybody’s openly – they just talk  
 129 about issues of life an’ – it was – it’s fantastic! I’m – I’m really  
 130 glad that I went to a Catholic school and had that opportunity. It  
 131 definitely really helps with growing, an’ especially in – um – TEE  
 132 years, Year 12 is a very hectic time. Um – you need to have  
 133 that open time to express what you’re feeling.

134 **Interviewer:** Could we take a look at Mr Doyle’s class. If you can remember  
 135 back to there, what are the qualities or characteristics of it that  
 136 come to your mind straight away?

137 **Frank:** Of the class?

- 138 **Interviewer:** Yeah, of the class.
- 139 **Frank:** Um – it was still lower high school, so – um – not as much  
 140 debate, or – um – or discussion, but – um – we were – ample  
 141 opportunities were given to express yourself – um – also the  
 142 kind of assignments we were given – um – one of them was a  
 143 puppet show and it's not just a written essay or a – um – a – I  
 144 dunno, a poster, or anything. It's – it's – it's an opportunity to  
 145 express – um – whatever the topic may be in – in your own way.  
 146 You can add your own flavour to it. And you can put out what –  
 147 what you think to the whole class. It's a – it's a group thing. It's  
 148 not just – um – someone sitting down writing something on the  
 149 teacher – um – writing something on the paper. Writing on the  
 150 teacher might be interesting. Writing something down on paper,  
 151 the teacher looking at it, marking it and returning it – that's the  
 152 same as every other class. Yeah, that was – that was quite a  
 153 good class.
- 154 **Interviewer:** Did you get to do your puppet show?
- 155 **Frank:** Ah, yeas. Um – we did it – for the class and on camera so that  
 156 you could add – in his own time mark it, rather than – um – just  
 157 the once off in front of the class. If you haven't recorded it, you  
 158 could miss things.
- 159 **Interviewer:** Can you remember what role you played in the puppet class?
- 160 **Frank:** No, I don't. Ah – I remember making the puppets in the – It was  
 161 a lot of fun.
- 162 **Interviewer:** Can you remember what the classroom was like when you were  
 163 making the puppets?
- 164 **Frank:** Ah – yes, quite lively. Actually, I remember playing glitter on  
 165 one guy's head. He wasn't too happy about that. It was pink  
 166 glitter. We didn't get on too well. But – um – yeah, our  
 167 particular group – um – Mr Doyle had couches up the back.  
 168 Come to think of it, we probably hogged those couches. I mean,  
 169 we probably should have shared them a bit more. But – um –  
 170 that's where we did all our work. We sat up the back there an' –  
 171 It was a relaxed, fun environment – um – and it's another one of  
 172 the reasons why I got a D in that class. Um – for not enough of  
 173 the group aspect – um – sharing. But – um – yeah, it was – it  
 174 was definitely enjoyable.
- 175 **Interviewer:** How did that class help you in your own faith development?
- 176 **Frank:** Um – that woulda been – ah, I can't remember whether it was  
 177 before or after when I had the RE teacher who shouldn't be  
 178 teaching RE. Um – but it definitely woulda helped in being open  
 179 in RE – um – feeling a safe en- – environment and, I mean, if – if  
 180 it was before when I had the other teacher – um – I'd imagine it  
 181 would've been something for me to reflect on and think: It's not  
 182 the subject, and it's not the class, it's the teacher. An' I can  
 183 think back, y' know, with Mr Doyle, it's great. Um – or if it was

184 after that, it would've helped to get over it an' realise that it, y'  
 185 know, again it was the teacher an' not the – not the class, or the  
 186 subject. So even if – um – even if Mr Doyle's class was the only  
 187 good RE class that I had through high school, I'm sure that  
 188 woulda been enough. Um – but, yeah, this – every – every little  
 189 – the teacher can make such a huge difference.

190 **Interviewer:** So, what about Mr Doyle himself?

191 **Frank:** Lovely man. Um – some of the stories he told us an' – an' the –  
 192 the things he would come out with, it seemed odd that –  
 193 refreshing. Um – it wasn't the – the typical hard, blind kind of  
 194 religion way – yeah, he'd throw questions at us like: If – if we  
 195 were to walk through Northbridge and see him sitting at a table  
 196 with – a – a bunch of women who look like prostitutes, what we  
 197 would think? Don't remember why (laughter) or where that  
 198 went, but it – I know, I'm pretty sure it was about – um –  
 199 assumptions an' thinking about people from what you see. You  
 200 know, if it was Mr Doyle, you'd probably think he was just either  
 201 having a chat, because that's Mr Doyle, or – um – trying to  
 202 convert them, or leave the – the sinning ways, or what. Um – I  
 203 did have something else come to mind. Ah, it was – it was  
 204 probably just the puppet show again. I mean, it's – it's not the –  
 205 the formal – um – strict way. It – it's open, it's fresh, it's friendly.  
 206 Mmmm.

207 **Interviewer:** And Year 12 RE? Was that like that as well?

208 **Frank:** Yes – um – pretty much Year 12 consisted of walking in the  
 209 room, putting the chairs in a circle and having a discussion. Um  
 210 – occasionally, the – the teacher would – um – throw a topic in –  
 211 um – I mean, we had to do assignments along the way as well,  
 212 but we – we tried to get them outa the way at the beginning of  
 213 the year being TEE. It's pretty hard pressed for time at the end  
 214 the year. So we pushed through them, got them done and then  
 215 had relaxation – um – reflection, prayer – um – and they may  
 216 have drifted from – ah – religious topics and gone into sport, all  
 217 kinds of things, but it was just great to have that there as a break  
 218 during school. Really good. Very thankful for it.

219 **Interviewer:** So could you just talk a little about the break aspect of school?

220 **Frank:** Yep. Ah – there was a lot of stress an' a lotta pressure going on  
 221 – um – and I mean, everyone in Year 12 go- – or everyone in  
 222 TEE goes through that time when they think: I just can't take it  
 223 anymore. I need a break! Um – and if you're having those  
 224 regular breaks during the class days, or even – um – when it's –  
 225 er – a period at the end of the day, to have that wind down  
 226 before you go home, 'cause you just gotta study more when you  
 227 go home anyway. Um – it's just – it takes a load off. You can  
 228 discuss what you're feeling. It's very good.

229 **Interviewer:** Did she ever do meditations with you?

- 230 **Frank:** Yeah, we did. Um – I think we started to do it weekly – um –  
 231 sometimes more often – ah – later on in the year. Um – there’s  
 232 a chapel annexe – um – used to be the old weights room. Um –  
 233 yeah, they purchased cushions – um – a prayer table, and we  
 234 do meditation. Um – yeah, an’ light some candles, sit on the  
 235 cushions. And then after the meditation, we’d do our reading an’  
 236 discussion.
- 237 **Interviewer:** Good. How do you think that helped your faith?
- 238 **Frank:** Ah – to keep it there. (pause) Um – yeah – ah.
- 239 **Interviewer:** So, if we consider the RE teacher, do you think your faith was  
 240 important for her?
- 241 **Frank:** Definitely. Yep. I think – um – Mrs Thomas really cared – ah –  
 242 and wanted us to take that aspect of St Theresa’s – um – with  
 243 us into our adult lives. Yeah. Um – also to still mature the faith  
 244 – um – having those open ritual discussions – um – yeah – an’  
 245 Mrs Thomas would always be there to offer – um – both the  
 246 Church’s opinion and her own – um – if they ever varied. Um –  
 247 yeah, we – just talking. It was good.
- 248 **Interviewer:** What about the Year 12 retreat?
- 249 **Frank:** Yes. I actually left the Year 12 retreat early. But – um – um –  
 250 we – we did things reflecting on our families – um – and a lot of  
 251 what you’re discussing about, the support structures – um – and  
 252 it’s just a lead into leaving school, what things are going to be  
 253 like afterwards. Um – also time to meet people that we’d gone  
 254 to high school with for five years, but hadn’t really had a lot to do  
 255 with an’ the transition from the beginning of Year 12 to the end  
 256 of Year 12. You see people that were once quiet – um – just  
 257 coming out of themselves. It’s fantastic. Ah – so that was an  
 258 opportunity for – for growth within people and to – to meet them  
 259 to speak to them, to find – ah, to find out, y’ know, who they are.  
 260 It’s – it w- – it was very enjoyable.
- 261 **Interviewer:** Where did yo go for your retreat?
- 262 **Frank:** We went to Pickering Brook. I actually went there for a Year 5  
 263 camp as well. It was quite a good venue. It had a nice, big,  
 264 open hall in the middle for all our activities. Um – well, the – the  
 265 Year was split into two, – ah – so it would’ve been – um – ooh –  
 266 There was probably about 80 to 90 students in our year, so,  
 267 yeah, about 40-45 people.
- 268 **Interviewer:** How many days did you go for?
- 269 **Frank:** Um – ah, I think it was a four-day thing. Ah, yeah, I was only  
 270 there for three. Yeah, four days.
- 271 **Interviewer:** Did you have a priest on the retreat?
- 272 **Frank:** We did. Um – I think Fr Brian was our assigned priest. Fr  
 273 Gordon went to the other one. I’m not too sure if Fr Gordon  
 274 came to us for a while as well. I can’t really remember. I don’t

275 think Fr Brian was there for the whole time, though. He came up  
 276 to celebrate – um – Mass with us one day and – um – I think he  
 277 was there for – for most of the afternoon before the Mass as  
 278 well. Yeah.

279 **Interviewer:** If you had to define faith, how would you define it?

280 **Frank:** Um – belief in a being – ah – (pause) belief in a creator – ah –  
 281 an’ a (pause) major of the universe, I s’pose. Yeah.

282 **Interviewer:** Okay.

283 **Frank:** You could go further an’, y’ know, aspects of the creator: loving  
 284 caring....

285 **Interviewer:** Is there anything you would like to add that we haven’t covered?

286 **Frank:** Um – I think that – ah – staff, like teachers and – um – parents  
 287 need to constantly remember that – um – every – every little  
 288 thing that you do, you know, someone could be feeling really  
 289 down an’ if you’re always pleasant and’ you’re always nice, the  
 290 effect that you can have on someone, and – um – maybe even if  
 291 they’re not showing it at the time, or if their grades aren’t  
 292 showing or – um – like, with myself not going to Church for a  
 293 while, then they need not worry because they’ve done their part.  
 294 It’s – it’s up to them an’ – um – probably really haven’t been  
 295 showing it a lot recently, but not to worry, I mean, it’s there.  
 296 Mmm. Oh, what was it? (pause) Yeah – um – just to – it’s not  
 297 quite a religious aspect of it, but – um – one particular class, or  
 298 actually two, English and Economics – um – my grades weren’t  
 299 fantastic, but what I’ve taken from them is – is incredible. And  
 300 it’s the same with my Year 9 RE with Mr Doyle. I got a D, but  
 301 what I took from that was – was great.

302 **Interviewer:** Is that because of the teacher? Or because of your peers?

303 **Frank:** It’d be because of the teacher, yes – ah – partially because of  
 304 the peers, I mean, of course, if the environment – um – for the  
 305 discussion is – is there, otherwise it can just cripple the whole  
 306 thing. Um – and for – for the other subjects I was talking about  
 307 just before. Um – it’s – it’s understanding, it’s being educated –  
 308 um – I didn’t have the best grip on things and I found it hard to –  
 309 to remember thins under pressure to write about them, but for –  
 310 um – conversations afterwards and just with – ah – with people  
 311 in – when I’m working in the shop, or people at work, or  
 312 conversations amongst my friends – um – to be educated, and  
 313 to be able to have an opinion on these things ’cause you have a  
 314 background there is fantastic. You can listen to the news and  
 315 you can apply all that you’ve learnt and you can – you can form  
 316 your own opinion and not to be an ignorant shit just following to  
 317 be swept up in the media and not realise propaganda – and that  
 318 – that was just fantastic that we’d covered in high school. I’m so  
 319 glad. You look at what happens in politics, you’re not swept up  
 320 in it all.

321 **Interviewer:** Well, the last thing: will the plumber ever get to own the karaoke  
322 bar?

323 **Frank:** (laughs) Well, I took up plumbing so I could buy a karaoke bar.  
324 Whether it happens or not, I don't know. I have – I went to  
325 karaoke once. It wasn't my best experience. I didn't know  
326 anyone there, other than one girl who'd asked me to come along  
327 – um – just for company, and I left about half an hour  
328 afterwards. Yeah.

329 **Interviewer:** Thanks, Frank.

330 **Frank:** (laughs) If I ever get one, I contact you and invite you to the  
331 opening night!

332 **Interviewer:** Thanks very much, Frank. That was great.