

Gunter's second interview

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3 **Interviewer:** Well, Gunter, thank you for agreeing to this second interview.
4 And in this second interview, I'd like you to imagine that you
5 have a copy of your autobiography on the table in front of you.
6 What title have you given it?

7 **Gunter:** A hard question.

8 **Interviewer:** It is a hard question.

9 **Gunter:** (*long pause*) Thousands o' titles you could probably give it.
10 Probably give it something like "My Journey Through Life."

11 **Interviewer:** Okay. If you wrote the story of your life now, is that the title you'd
12 give it?

13 **Gunter:** Probably, yeah, I would.

14 **Interviewer:** Okay. Would you like to reflect on why you've given it that title?

15 **Gunter:** Well, I guess the title sort of reflects like, as in theme, my
16 journey through life, so it'll – it sort of reflects like my journey
17 from – um – well, I could say when I was born, but like the
18 chances that I'm gonna remember stuff from when I was like a
19 few months old now is quite unlikely, but from, say, way back
20 when I can remember to now, like what – things I've gone
21 through – um – the experiences I've had – um – and say,
22 problems I've faced and how I've sort of gone around them – um
23 – an' then say good things that have happened and sort of – i- –
24 it would reflect my journey from – say, a child to where I am
25 now.

26 **Interviewer:** Okay. So if that's the case, do you have any sense of what sorts
27 of chapters would be in your autobiography?

28 **Gunter:** Um – the chapter's a hard one. Um – maybe say for the first
29 chapter – um – maybe might call it something like "Early" – um –
30 how'd I put it – I'd say maybe "Early Life" or – um – "Early
31 Times", something like that.

32 **Interviewer:** Would that be your childhood?

33 **Gunter:** Yeah.

34 **Interviewer:** Before going to school? Or would it include school?

35 **Gunter:** Probably include pre-primary.

36 **Interviewer:** Okay. So the next chapter would pick up from there. What would
37 that be about?

38 **Gunter:** Um – probably my experiences starting primary school and
39 move on. Um – an' I actually can remember a lot o' stuff. Will I
40 move on?

41 **Interviewer:** Yeah.

- 42 **Gunter:** An' then probably my journey through primary school up until
43 about Year 5 or 6.
- 44 **Interviewer:** Okay, and what happens then? Do you move into another
45 chapter?
- 46 **Gunter:** Yep. Um – an' that would sorta cover maybe the journey from
47 Year 5 to 6 to – um – well, from Year 5 an' 6 to when I shifted
48 house from Henley Brook to Serpentine. Um – and – sorta
49 maybe talk about the – um – like, I didn't really face any
50 problems 'cause I was quite happy to actually move. Um – I was
51 qu- – happy to stay wherever anyway. Henley Brook had its
52 good things and bad things and so does Serpentine. Um – an'
53 then sorta my experiences of trying to fit in at the new school
54 there an' – I didn't find that too bad actually. People at the
55 Serpentine Primary School are quite – were quite good – um –
56 an' then I probably end off there an' then move into another
57 chapter. I'd sort of describe the transition from primary school to
58 high school an' sorta maybe I would describe some o' the things
59 that primary school teachers say to – um – primary school
60 students to scare them about high school an' when you get there
61 you find out that they're not really true.
- 62 **Interviewer:** So what are some of those things?
- 63 **Gunter:** Oh, I can remember stuff like – um – y' know, my Year 7 teacher
64 used to say – um – oh at high school like they're really strict, the
65 teachers an' stuff, an' say if you forget something in y' locker,
66 they're not gonna let you go back an' get it, an' stuff like that.
67 An', y' know, they jist (pause) basically you live under Nazi rule.
- 68 **Interviewer:** Okay. Of course, you haven't found that to be the case, have
69 you?
- 70 **Gunter:** No.
- 71 **Interviewer:** So, your time at high school, would there be a couple of
72 chapters in that?
- 73 **Gunter:** Probably yes, there would be because – um – a lot more's
74 happened I guess at high school than it has in primary school
75 'cause you sorta move into where students are getting more
76 mature an' they sorta see things in – um – I can't say sorta
77 positive or negative light, but they sorta see things in different
78 ways, like – um – for example, when you're in primary school life
79 an' you jist used to say, "Oh, yeah, subjects – what the hell, we'll
80 jist do what the teacher says – um – where in high school you
81 sort of – um – start seeing that if you don't study y' not gonna
82 get anywhere. Um – an' – um – I find like with studying stuff I
83 sorta treat it as if – um – not as if it's something like that I – how
84 can I say it – um – like something that it – it's extremely boring
85 an' I don't wanna do, sorta thing, an' that I should rebel against. I
86 sort of try to see it as – um – I can sort of enjoy it an' then – um
87 – it'll get me somewhere.

- 88 **Interviewer:** Okay. Good.
- 89 **Gunter:** An' I sort of try to see it like in not such a harsh way an' I find
90 that helps because then if you're sitting an' y' thinking "Oh yeah,
91 I'm not studying hard enough – um – an' I'm gonna fail" an' so
92 forth, an' so forth, you sorta worry, an' if you sorta take –
93 become more relaxed and think – um – like about what y' doing,
94 you can take a lot more in an' you'll remember a lot more. That's
95 what I find.
- 96 **Interviewer:** Okay, so if you take the last chapter of your autobiography, what
97 sort of title do you think you'd give it?
- 98 **Gunter:** Um – the last chapter as in being like wha – wha – what?
- 99 **Interviewer:** The last chapter after this point
- 100 **Gunter:** After this point?
- 101 **Interviewer:** Yeah. We'll talk about the future later on in the interview. So you
102 have written your autobiography. It ends when you are in Year
103 12. So the last chapter, what sort of title do you think you would
104 give it?
- 105 **Gunter:** (*long pause*) Don't know.
- 106 **Interviewer:** Okay. What's been the major characteristic of that last chapter?
107 Is it the thing you've said about homework and realizing that
108 study's there for your own good? Or –
- 109 **Gunter:** Mmmm. Probably, most probably, yeah.
- 110 **Interviewer:** Well, we'll leave that and move on. What about God and
111 religion? Where do they fit into your story?
- 112 **Gunter:** Um – good question.
- 113 **Interviewer:** Is there a chapter where they seem to fit the most when you
114 stop and think about it?
- 115 **Gunter:** Um – probably when I was in Year Seven when I did the – like
116 the classes outside o' school to get confirmed. That's probably –
117 um – where I spent most time – um – working with like – um –
118 how can I say it? – God an' religion or – yeah.
- 119 **Interviewer:** Was it intensive in that time, more so than at other times?
- 120 **Gunter:** Um – I didn't find it intense actually. I found it quite fun. Like the
121 stuff you do in those extra classes isn't like the – like the lady we
122 had teaching us wasn't really boring. She sorta made things
123 really interesting an' brought out a fun side to doing a lot of the
124 stuff. An' then we came to Confirmation. I really enjoyed it. I was
125 looking forward to getting confirmed.
- 126 **Interviewer:** Was it because of enjoyment that it was important to you or
127 were there other reasons why at that particular time in your life
128 God and religion were important?
- 129 **Gunter:** Mmmm. (*long pause*) I guess – um – the sorta enjoyment made
130 it important. Um – but the whole fact that I guess 'cause I'm

- 131 Catholic – um – and that I – like I don't sorta see anything
132 against the Catholic Church that I – um – wanna be part of it.
- 133 **Interviewer:** And this was an important step in becoming part of things?
- 134 **Gunter:** Yeah. I guess I – um – come to think of it now I kinda saw it as –
135 up to that point I wasn't like fully part of the Catholic Church
136 community sorta thing and getting confirmed would bring me into
137 that community sorta thing.
- 138 **Interviewer:** Okay, do you want to leave that there for the moment and move
139 on? There's no other reason why you think it would have been
140 an important time for you?
- 141 **Gunter:** Um – I dunno. I can sort of relate a bit to Year 12 as well with
142 that. Um - like, for example, this year, I've sort of noticed that
143 we do a lot more to do with the Masses an' liturgies an' stuff. Um
144 – particularly our Year 12 Mass which I think was quite well
145 done. Um – an' the whole thing about where it – um – we had
146 the morning tea after it an' that an' it sort of kept that like – we
147 have a Mass together as a group then we'll go and have
148 morning tea together as a group an' we can sort of talk an' have
149 a bit of a fun time – um – which sort of bought – like made the
150 Mass special.
- 151 **Interviewer:** So, in what way was that like your Confirmation?
- 152 **Gunter:** Um – I guess like with the Confirmation you go an' like have the
153 – um – Confirmation ceremony an' – it's ceremony? – yeah –
154 ceremony in the Church an' – um – then you'll go an' have lunch
155 or something at a restaurant sorta thing. An' it's sort of similar in
156 a way 'cause you're not getting confirmed or whatever, but you
157 have the Mass with your own Year group an' no – nobody else
158 sorta thing. An' then you'll go an' – um – morning tea together.
- 159 **Interviewer:** So, the conclusion you'd draw?
- 160 **Gunter:** I guess that springs me off to That is one of my beliefs God
161 intended people not to fight like he intended them to sort of work
162 together as a group. It goes the old saying: "Together we are
163 strong, divided we are weak." Um – an' like being the whole
164 community thing like sort of proves that – um – we live up to
165 what God expects us to live up to.
- 166 **Interviewer:** Okay. Well, let's move on. In one of the chapters of your story,
167 you've written about an experience that confirmed for you that
168 God exists. So was there ever a time in your life when you were
169 convinced that God exists?
- 170 **Gunter:** Mmm. (*pause*) Not really any one particular time. I sort of always
171 – I've been of the belief that God exists.
- 172 **Interviewer:** So nothing's ever happened for you that confirmed for you that
173 belief?
- 174 **Gunter:** Um – not really, no.

- 175 **Interviewer:** Okay.
- 176 **Gunter:** S'pose watching shows like documentaries like *Signs of God* an'
177 stuff makes you think twice. Um – I s'pose that may have been
178 like a sort of point in thinking that – um – God's more real – um –
179 an' he sort of can influence people more than some people
180 think, like by seeing all the strange things that happen to – like
181 pictures an' stuff, the stigmata, an' that sort of thing.
- 182 **Interviewer:** Okay. It's obvious from the last interview and this one that films
183 and documentaries are an important source of ideas for you
184 about your religion. Would that be true?
- 185 **Gunter:** Quite true. Depending on what like what context the film is an'
186 isn't an' is in an' stuff. Like – um – say it's a comedy or
187 something, an' it includes people goin' to Church an' stuff –
- 188 **Interviewer:** *Bruce Almighty*, for instance.
- 189 **Gunter:** Yeah, *Bruce Almighty*, for instance. Like, I – I don't normally take
190 that sorta thing seriously, but if it's something serious like – um –
191 the documentary *Signs o' God*, or the movie *Stigmata* – um – I
192 don't know whether you seen it or not –
- 193 **Interviewer:** No, I haven't. That's one you spoke about at length in the first
194 interview.
- 195 **Gunter:** Mmm.
- 196 **Interviewer:** Obviously it had a huge impact on you.
- 197 **Gunter:** Yeah. Well, I – like some o' the stuff shown in that film might –
198 like I thought 'cause i – it didn't sort of take a ridiculous angle
199 sorta thing, it took a serious angle an' it kept that like – it kept –
200 um – the main views of the Catholic Church an' stuff.
- 201 **Interviewer:** Okay. There are things there that I'd like to come back to and
202 talk about in about twelve months time after you've left school
203 and you're at Uni. Imagine that you're thumbing through your
204 book and you stop at a page in which you describe something
205 that happened in an RE class that you found challenging.
- 206 **Gunter:** Um – if you'd asked me this actually next week, it would be the
207 test. Um – I guess each RE lesson has its own challenge in it –
208 um – but I can't really recall anything particularly challenging
209 about one specific RE lesson.
- 210 **Interviewer:** So has there been anything at all that stays in your mind?
- 211 **Gunter:** Um – (*pause*) – Oh – I do think about the stuff we talk about in
212 RE – um – but I – I dunno – it's hard to sort of regurgitate
213 something that – um –
- 214 **Interviewer:** That's okay. The question is based on my personal experience.
- 215 **Gunter:** I guess the collages that we did in the beginning of the year
216 were a bit of a challenge 'cause I didn't know what to put on
217 there. Y' just like look through magazines an' stuff an' jus' think,
218 "Oh God, what do I put on here?"

- 219 **Interviewer:** Can you recall that experience from last year as well?
- 220 **Gunter:** Um – yeah, I can actually, uh, the beginning of last year, an' we
221 did that one, too.
- 222 **Interviewer:** Can you recall your collage from last year?
- 223 **Gunter:** Um – uh, I think I put trees an' stuff on there, an' houses. Can't
224 remember what else. I put water, oceans, an' I did clouds.
- 225 **Interviewer:** What can you remember about the houses?
- 226 **Gunter:** Mmm. (*pause*) A few o' them were big, I think. An' the bush.
- 227 **Interviewer:** Why?
- 228 **Gunter:** I dunno. I seem to like houses out in the bush.
- 229 **Interviewer:** Where do you live?
- 230 **Gunter:** Neerabup.
- 231 **Interviewer:** Out in the bush.
- 232 **Gunter:** In the bush, yeah.
- 233 **Interviewer:** How would you describe the house you live in?
- 234 **Gunter:** Pretty good.
- 235 **Interviewer:** What do you mean by that?
- 236 **Gunter:** Oh, it's a fairly new house. We built it, an' designed it ourselves.
237 Um – an' it's – aw, it's out in the bush. Um – an' it's quiet out
238 there. Um – an' the house is pretty comfortable to live in. Um –
239 it's fairly warm in winter, – um – cool in summer, provided
240 people shut the doors an' windows. If you leave them open then
241 it becomes like an oven. Um – yeah.
- 242 **Interviewer:** What about your grandparents?
- 243 **Gunter:** Um – like – like what sorta house they live in?
- 244 **Interviewer:** Mmm.
- 245 **Gunter:** They live in – um – in the city. Um – but they've got a house
246 they designed and built themselves as well. Um – they originally
247 used to live on our farm in a really old house. Um – but the other
248 house is – um – slightly smaller than ours except it's a double
249 storey – um – an' they've got a garden out the back an' they also
250 have – um – own the house next door which is their old house –
251 um – it has also got a garden out the back an' a few chickens
252 an' stuff at that house, yeah.
- 253 **Interviewer:** Okay. Let's move on. When you stop and think about things that
254 have happened in RE, like doing Art and things like that, has it
255 had any impact on your faith as far as you can see?
- 256 **Gunter:** (*pause*) Not really.
- 257 **Interviewer:** So what things do impact on your faith? On your faith in God?

- 258 **Gunter:** Mmmm. I guess things that I see – um – things that I might read
259 about in the paper – um – yeah, probably basically just those.
- 260 **Interviewer:** So do they cause you to question? Or do they lead you to pray?
261 What, what do they do, these things that you see?
- 262 **Gunter:** Probably question an' maybe also strengthen.
- 263 **Interviewer:** Can you recall anything that you feel comfortable enough talking
264 about that sort of links in to all of that?
- 265 **Gunter:** Not recently, no.
- 266 **Interviewer:** Okay. Can you think of any time when something did make an
267 impact on you?
- 268 **Gunter:** Mmm, the twin towers.
- 269 **Interviewer:** Yeah, and so when you recall that, when that happened and
270 how old you were and the sorts of things that went through your
271 mind, ah, what is it that you remember first?
- 272 **Gunter:** Why did they do it?
- 273 **Interviewer:** And why would that question have an impact on your faith?
- 274 **Gunter:** Um – because – um – basically people shouldn't go doing things
275 like that, killing thousands of people for no reason.
- 276 **Interviewer:** And that's what your faith tells you? (*Gunter nods.*) And do you
277 think it's always been like that for you to have that sort of faith?
- 278 **Gunter:** Yeah.
- 279 **Interviewer:** Okay. Good. You've written the last chapter in your book and it's
280 about the future. Amazing biography because you can actually
281 see into the future. So what title did you give that chapter?
- 282 **Gunter:** (*pause*) Mm, probably "Things to Come."
- 283 **Interviewer:** What sort of things would you like to project into the future?
- 284 **Gunter:** (*pause*) Ah, finish high school. Um – (*sighs*) become a teacher.
285 Um – I dunno, maybe later on get married. Ah – have – have a
286 family, not excessively large, just – small, maybe one or two
287 children. Um – an' from there on, I don't know.
- 288 **Interviewer:** Okay. Teaching what?
- 289 **Gunter:** Um – perhaps biological science, like biology, human biology –
290 um – computing, maybe a bit of RE.
- 291 **Interviewer:** So that's the future chapter. Does it have a title?
- 292 **Gunter:** Mm – didn't I say "Things to Come"?
- 293 **Interviewer:** Okay. And what about God in this future? What part does God
294 have?
- 295 **Gunter:** Um – (*sighs*) – That's – I dunno. That's the hardest bit.
- 296 **Interviewer:** Why would that be the hardest bit?

- 297 **Gunter:** Um – 'cause I sort of – I'll take things maybe like sort of as they
298 come rather than try to predict something that's gonna happen
299 that won't or that doesn't.
- 300 **Interviewer:** So even in terms of your relationship with God you don't know
301 what that will be in the future?
- 302 **Gunter:** Yeah.
- 303 **Interviewer:** Do you have any dream of what you'd like it to be?
- 304 **Gunter:** Not really.
- 305 **Interviewer:** And yet you have a dream about teaching biological sciences?
306 So do you know why God wouldn't have the same sort of place
307 in your future as, say, biological sciences or computing?
- 308 **Gunter:** Well, oh I do intend to like continue being a Catholic an' – um –
309 go to Church an' stuff. Um – like – like the way I see God now, I
310 don't know whether it'll change or not in the future.
- 311 **Interviewer:** Okay. Could it change?
- 312 **Gunter:** Mmm. At the moment, I don't think so, but I've changed my
313 views on like many things – um – in the past an' something
314 might come along that'll make me change my views.
- 315 **Interviewer:** Okay. I understand now.
- 316 **Gunter:** Mmm. That's why I like sorta can't predict anything for the future
317 because I don't know what's gonna happen.
- 318 **Interviewer:** So, even in projecting like I'll be a teacher, you don't know
319 whether that'll actually happen either.
- 320 **Gunter:** No.
- 321 **Interviewer:** But you'll hope for that?
- 322 **Gunter:** Yeah.
- 323 **Interviewer:** Can you think of anything that could intervene and change
324 things?
- 325 **Gunter:** Not, not really, at the moment.
- 326 **Interviewer:** Okay.
- 327 **Gunter:** Oh (*pause*) no (*pause*) Can't think of anything at the moment,
328 but things just pop up outa nowhere sometimes.
- 329 **Interviewer:** Yeah, that's certainly true. And they can change the direction of
330 your life and you could end up doing something that you'd never
331 even thought you'd be doing.
- 332 **Gunter:** Mmm. Like a particular doctor I know. He wanted to become an
333 electrician, or electrical technician sorta thing and – he – um –
334 was told there weren't many jobs available in that area – um –
335 an' then he decided to become a doctor an' he's one of the best
336 doctors I've known.

- 337 **Interviewer:** So, when you say “a Catholic in the future” would you like to
338 project what that really means in terms of a relationship with
339 God?
- 340 **Gunter:** Um – I guess I’ll remain a practicing Catholic – um – an’ perhaps
341 if I ever get married get married in the Catholic faith – um –
342 (*pause*)
- 343 **Interviewer:** What about your parents involvement in Church: is there
344 anything there that you could see that maybe you might take
345 on?
- 346 **Gunter:** Mmm. (*pause*)
- 347 **Interviewer:** What sort of involvement does your Mum have in Church?
- 348 **Gunter:** Um – she used to help out with the running of the – ah – like
349 Catechist classes – I s’pose that’s what they call it – um – but
350 she doesn’t do that anymore. She doesn’t have time, but – um –
351 occasionally when we go to Mass – um – on special occasions,
352 like Father’s Day or – um – Easter an’ Christmas, she’ll help out
353 – um – setting stuff up, or with readings an’ I’ll sometimes help
354 out with readings an’ setting stuff up.
- 355 **Interviewer:** So, can you see yourself doing those sorts of things?
- 356 **Gunter:** Yeah.
- 357 **Interviewer:** Or would you tend to be more like your Dad? Is your Dad more
358 withdrawn from those sorts of things?
- 359 **Gunter:** Not really.
- 360 **Interviewer:** So your Dad sometimes gets involved in those sorts of things.
- 361 **Gunter:** Yeah.
- 362 **Interviewer:** So, in a sense, you’re not doing anything different from what
363 you’ve been brought up to do. Your involvement in Church is to
364 get in there and help?
- 365 **Gunter:** Mmm.
- 366 **Interviewer:** Can you relate that back to the early part of the interview when
367 we were talking about Confirmation and the Year 12 Mass? Do
368 you draw any parallels between all of this?
- 369 **Gunter:** Mmm, yeah.
- 370 **Interviewer:** What is it?
- 371 **Gunter:** Um – well, the Year 12 Mass sort of had everything from – um –
372 like all of us – an’ so – so we all sort of put the Mass together an’
373 the Confirmation without the students to be confirmed wouldn’t
374 have happened. A Mass without the people to celebrate the
375 Mass wouldn’t happen.
- 376 **Interviewer:** Okay, well we’ve come to the end of the interview, but if I have
377 left anything out, if there’s anything you’d like to say about this

378 amazing biography of yours that we haven't touched on that you
379 might like to add before we finish. Is there anything?

380 **Gunter:** Not really. I think you've covered everything.

381 **Interviewer:** Thank you for the interview.