

Mikaela's second interview

1

2 **Interviewer:** In the interview and in the journal you were reflecting on how
3 your faith has changed since you've been growing up. Is there
4 anything further that you would like to add to what you stated in
5 the past about the changes you have experienced?

6 **Mikaela:** It's a lot harder when you leave school 'cause the school
7 environment made it easier for me definitely. Meeting new
8 people out of school who are a different influence to people old
9 friends within school. The people who were friends within
10 school changed a lot from what I knew them before. For some
11 reason, they all just went different. And I found it really difficult
12 to adjust and so when I adjusted to it I adjusted to be like them.
13 And then I realised – Somebody said to me that I wasn't the
14 person I was before and that they preferred the person I was
15 before and then I sort of began to change and then the people
16 who were different from me didn't accept it because they thought
17 I was being boring, put it that way.

18 **Interviewer:** How did that affect your faith?

19 **Mikaela:** I wanted to be a sheep and they didn't go to Church and so I
20 didn't go to Church. And they didn't totally, honestly believe in
21 God. I still believed in him but I felt it harder to follow him
22 because they weren't and I sort of felt like a sheep amongst a
23 bunch of lions. And they were dictating how I, where I should
24 be. And finally I thought, "Nup! I'm gonna go out on my own"
25 and got away.

26 **Interviewer:** Which is what you wrote about in the last part of your journal,
27 isn't it?

28 **Mikaela:** Yeah.

29 **Interviewer:** Do you know when you became aware of that?

30 **Mikaela:** Um – probably about February – March. I was a little bit of a
31 bitch to my Mum and nearly everyone I was – like I lived with
32 and they didn't like it and they tried to talk about it and I said
33 "Suck! I don't want to listen to you!" and walked out and don't
34 come back. Go to stay at somebody's house for like a day or two
35 and then come back and then they'd be like all quiet and they
36 wouldn't talk to me 'cause I told them not to the day before,
37 three days before. I think Joan leaving was much to do with
38 that. She's the person who used to hang around the most other
39 than Josie before she met George.

40 **Interviewer:** Has your image of God changed?

41 **Mikaela:** Oh, definitely not. Still the same. It was when I wrote in the
42 journal what I said to you before. Hasn't changed.

43 **Interviewer:** Is there anything else you would like to add before we move on?

44 **Mikaela:** No, not really. It hasn't changed. I mean – mm, that's okay.

45 **Interviewer:** Do you have anything further to say about the people, such as
46 parents, your sister, friends, others?

47 **Mikaela:** Start with friends. A lot of people who I was friends with in
48 school they're very different to when I knew them and they say
49 to me I'm the one who's changed when really I'm still the same
50 person they went to school with. It's just that they got different
51 influences in their lives and they want different things to what I
52 want.

53 **Interviewer:** What about your parents?

54 **Mikaela:** Um, Mum's all right. She's still trying to find her way. Leslie-
55 Ann needs more guidance than she thinks she does. She's sort
56 of like me in the fact that 'I don't need your help to do my own
57 thing'. When she does ask for help it's usually her last resort of
58 asking not like the first person she asks. That sort of make –
59 that's what upsets me because I usually would ask for help the
60 first person that I knew could help me. That's what it's like with
61 school work and then what makes it worse 'cause her friends
62 just – they rub things in her face and make her feel pretty bad.
63 And she doesn't have a lot of money. Our whole family doesn't
64 have a lot of money and they do. And they say, "Come out with
65 us. We'll pay for you but you gotta pay me back." But she
66 doesn't have money to go out or pay them back either.

67 **Interviewer:** You haven't mentioned your Dad.

68 **Mikaela:** Ah, Dad. Still the same person. Still very pushy, annoying,
69 dictating, governing, um, wants what's best for me but doesn't
70 realise that I have to make my own choices. And he likes sport
71 as well and he said to me every time I'm playing hockey, he's
72 like, "No, you have to do this, you have to do this, you have to
73 do this." And I'm like "You're never a goalie. You didn't even
74 once pick up a stick in your life other than picking up my hockey
75 bag to put it in the car." Y'know?

76 **Interviewer:** And yet he'll take you driving?

77 **Mikaela:** He'll take me driving if I – if I go on my hands and knees and
78 say, "Please, please, I want to go for a drive." And then it's only
79 around the block. If I'm very lucky, it's around Perth.

80 **Interviewer:** So with all of these people is there anything you've noticed
81 about them that's influencing how you relate with God?

82 **Mikaela:** I think my Dad makes me relate with him a lot better since I see
83 God as a better father than he is most of the time. Um – Mum?
84 Not really. My sister? I just pray to him and say, "She needs
85 help. Can you help her before you help me?" With my friends, I
86 really have no idea what to do. I think they push me a lot closer

87 than they obviously think they have. They – they think – they
 88 think of me sometimes as still a wild child, the one who starts off
 89 parties or whatever when realistically I'm only like that
 90 sometimes when I'm in the mood for that and not all the time.
 91 So when they want to come out to restaurants and stuff like that
 92 they say, "Mikaela, you go up to him and flirt with him. See if
 93 you can get half the meal for free." I'd go and do it. And
 94 sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't. And – um – I think
 95 that Joan leaving is probably the worst thing that happened. I
 96 hate – I actually – she – her going just put me right off my goals.

97 **Interviewer:** But you are back on track again now?

98 **Mikaela:** Almost there. Not exactly. Every now and then I go to Church
 99 and every now and then I get Jehovah Witnesses in our house
 100 and I talk to them. Not about their religion so much just about
 101 the similarities between our religions. I mean it's the same
 102 religion basically except that Jehovah is their saviour instead of
 103 Jesus. Yeah.

104 **Interviewer:** Anything further about Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

105 **Mikaela:** Um – not sure. I still pray to Jesus and not to God. It's just the
 106 way it is. You can't get out of old habits, and that's the way I see
 107 it. It's easier to do it like that. At this very moment, I really have
 108 no idea. I mean sometimes think he's there, sometimes think
 109 he's not.

110 **Interviewer:** Would you like to comment about praying to Jesus as a habit?

111 **Mikaela:** Every night before I go to bed – um – just about things that
 112 happen that day and what I want to happen the next day or the
 113 day after that. Or long term. And it's usually not about myself
 114 but about everybody else. And if it is about myself it's only
 115 asking if he'll help me in hockey. And that's it. And usually it
 116 works.

117 **Interviewer:** Is there anything that occurs to you about your experience of
 118 school, RE classes, teachers – you've commented about your
 119 peers and how they've changed since they've left school – but
 120 what about those other areas?

121 **Mikaela:** Um – I'm actually still happy that I'm in YCS. A lot of people that
 122 were in YCS don't want to have anything to do with it anymore.
 123 And even though I don't have a lot of time on my hands, I mean,
 124 like when I have TAFE and like Friday is probably the worst day
 125 to have a YCS meeting for me I still – I'm actually happy that I'm
 126 still in it. I don't really do much although at the moment, just
 127 guiding them to figure out things for themselves not making –
 128 not me making decisions 'cause it's now their group, not mine.
 129 Teachers. Don't really see many of my teachers. I wish I did,
 130 though. Um – I – I wish I could see Miss Jones again to say

131 thank you, but I don't know where she is. I know she's at school
132 somewhere.

133 **Interviewer:** She's only a phone call away.

134 **Mikaela:** True. I must try to catch her one day.

135 **Interviewer:** What about RE?

136 **Mikaela:** I miss RE. Really do miss RE. I mean last year's RE was pretty
137 boring. Don't know why, but Year 9, Year 10, Year 8, a bit of
138 Year 11 were the best RE classes I ever had. I actually enjoyed
139 it. I enjoyed Year 11 most. Mr Smith was very insightful. He
140 used to talk about things like – he used to say, "Draw us a
141 picture. Then see how that relates to God. I give you a word
142 and you draw anything that relates to it." The same with Mr
143 Court. He did it once or twice. And that was really weird. Me
144 and my sister drew the same thing.

145 **Interviewer:** You have mentioned that before. Is there anything that you
146 would like to add that we haven't covered?

147 **Mikaela:** No, not really. Um – I can't really think of anything off the top of
148 my head. Would you like to give me an example?

149 **Interviewer:** No, I would much rather it came from you.

150 **Mikaela:** Okay, today I was going to show you where my favourite place
151 was to sit and think, but, y'know, it's a long track. It takes me an
152 hour to get there and about two hours to get back for no
153 particular reason. Um – I just sit there and think. It's the most
154 quiet place you could ever find. And um – I don't know – it's just
155 very – something just draws me there every time.

156 **Interviewer:** Good. And you have a need for that?

157 **Mikaela:** Yeah. I like being by myself. I mean I like being among people
158 but being by yourself is so much better.

159 **Interviewer:** Why is that?

160 **Mikaela:** You don't have to put up with them all the time. Like some
161 people you can put up with a little while and there's people you
162 can put up with for ages. It used to be Josie and me but now I
163 don't like being around her 'cause she's a bit annoying and
164 George – I've already mentioned about him. Um – Erin, I like
165 being around Erin. And she's probably the person I probably
166 see the most times. And there's another one of my friends
167 called Tammy. She'd be the person I spend the most time with.
168 She's been my friend for ten years this year. And I wish I could
169 see her more often. She's the one person I can stand being
170 around the most.

171 **Interviewer:** I think we will conclude out interview here.