

The questionnaire – Andrew Graystone

Andrew Graystone is the Director of the Churches' Media Council. Andrew has worked as a producer on radio and TV, and is a regular presenter for BBC Radio 4.

1. Which verse means the most to you? Habakkuk 1: 5 “Look among the nations, and watch, and be utterly amazed. For I am doing a work in your age that you would not believe, even if you were told.”

2. Have you ever told anyone something ‘in love’? Yes. I told a very famous evangelist he was going off the rails. He was. He’s now a very sensible, less famous but just as effective evangelist.

3. Can you remember the date you became a Christian? This morning. And yesterday. And the day before...

4. How do you think you changed on conversion? I’ve been a Christian since I was a baby. So it’s more a case of being changed...by my mother. It’s been 46 years now. The further I go the less things I believe, and the more strongly I believe the things that are left.

5. What do you think the UK church is getting wrong? The UK church hasn’t begun to understand the influence the media has on our culture. The average person in the UK spends 5 hours 20 minutes per day watching TV or using the internet. Christians are no different. We need to do some really hard thinking about how to live as Christians in the digital environment.

6. Happy clappy, Taize or organ? No thanks.

7. What’s your ideal Sunday? Morning with my lovely Nazarene Church in Longsight, Manchester. Lunch at a cafe. Stockport County winning at home.

8. Where do you go to get inspiration for your work? I’m an omnivorous reader. I get a lot from reading newspapers, listening to radio and watching TV.

9. Favourite preacher Deirdre Brower, pastor at the Nazarene Church, Longsight.

10. Favourite Christian soundbite? “Pray harder, think harder, hope harder, sweat on” (Rt Rev David Jenkins, former Bishop of Durham.) It’s above my desk.

11. What do you remember about the people who nurtured you in the faith? Selflessness and utter consistency

12. If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be? How long?

13. How do you imagine heaven? Only in terms of relationships, healed and whole.

14. How do you imagine hell? Only in terms of relationships broken and unequal.

15. Which of the 10 commandments have you broken the most? The same one we all break most...thou shalt have no other gods before me. It seems to me that all the rest are just extensions of that.

16. What would your 11th commandment be? Thou shalt not beat thyself up for thine own inadequacies...for God is neither surprised nor disappointed by them.

17. Sum up the Gospel in 10 words or less. Jesus is God; God is love; love will prevail.

18. What are you working on next? Helping Christians to respond well to the amazing BBC drama series The Passion to be broadcast through Holy Week. See www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion for details.

19. Email, phone or face to face? My first boss and mentor Revd Ian Bunting said “never write if you can phone, never phone if you can visit.”

20. How would you answer Jesus: ‘Who do you say that I am?’ “You are the one who makes all things new. Please don’t give up on me till you’ve finished.”

www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk