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## WHY DID I DO IT?

### *Interview*

**So, bare legged, underpants, freezing cold and then the policeman's spotlight shone right on us.**

**Richard:** This is messages of hope with Richard and Celia. Have you ever done something so stupid, you just wanted to hide. That's what happened to our guest today Jonathan Krause. Stay tuned to hear about the day he got caught with his pants down.

**Celia:** Jonathan has just written a book, Come To Life, about a lot of life's interesting moments. There's a lot of you in this book Jonathan, a lot of incidents that most of us probably wouldn't be brave enough to share let alone make public! So what prompted you to put it all in a book?

**Jonathan:** Celia my goal in life has always been to talk about my Christian values and I've always believed that you need to go to where people are rather than expect them to come to you. So I kind of figure if I've done a whole lot of dopey things, that might help people connect with that and let me share a story that sort of points to Jesus at the end of it all.

**Richard:** Was there a moment or an incident though that actually sparked the origins of this book?

**Jonathan:** In telling stories about my life and relating to Jesus that started about 35 years ago when a friend of mine is killed in a car accident. And I wrote a story about her and people connected to that and that sort of gave me the encouragement to keep writing stories. This book here, I don't know I'm old now so I've done a lot of dumb things so let's try and get some value out of them and make them worthwhile.

**Celia:** And I guess it's making yourself vulnerable too, that people perhaps can relate to?

**Jonathan:** Yeah a lot of people come across as authorities and they say we know this and this is what you should do and everything like that but I'm sort of more of the view that there's a lot of different ways of looking at something and I'm still exploring, I'm still asking questions. And if you'd come to me 30 years ago I would have had all the answers and this would have been a really easy interview but now it's more about questions.

**Richard:** There's some really funny stories in here, like you obviously look back on your life and you're vulnerable enough to have a go at yourself and to share some of your scary moments. There's some stories in there that I'd be incredibly embarrassed to share.

**Celia:** In fact there seems to be a bit of a common theme of underwear in this book because you've got something set in Victoria's Secret, you've got the red underpants, you know as a

bit of a Superman theme, and then you've got this story that we're going to talk about. About, you know, being caught with your pants down.

**Jonathan:** Now I'm not quite sure how that happened but yeah.

**Celia:** Maybe it's just us that's got the fixation. We're picking out those ones.

**Jonathan:** But maybe it's the thing about you are exposed and stripped down and that's when you're vulnerable and fragile when you don't have all the protective layers around you. And I think it's at that point that you start to explore what life's really about. It's not only the physical thing of underpants like in this book I talk about death a fair bit. About my mum dying and my former wife dying. And it's when you get to those crunch points in your life and there's nowhere to hide, I think that's when God can become real because it's nothing that gets in the way. So I justify my underwear that way.

**Celia:** This is messages of hope and coming up you'll hear how Jonathan ended up bare legged, underpants exposed in the spotlight of a policeman's torch! How would you cope?

**Richard:** We've all experienced times and one innocent thing led to another and all of a sudden we're caught out, embarrassed and wishing we could crawl under a rock somewhere. Our guest today Jonathan Krause has just written a book called come to life with a few of those embarrassing stories.

**Celia:** So I want you to tell me what were you doing in the car park late on a Saturday night?

**Jonathan:** Well my son turned 21 and it was a good party. But if my son is 21 that means I'm 25 years older, so I was ready to go home to bed but everybody else wanted to go to the nightclub. So my mate, he goes to the nightclub door and they said "no you can't come in you're wearing denim" whereas me I was wearing leather pants and don't ask about why I was wearing leather pants at that age! Anyway my mate says "no, easy solution, we just swap pants." But we're in the hotel car park alongside of our car. [00:04:10] You know how in life you make those, it seems like a simple little decision but the consequences grow and grow and grow.

**Celia:** Tell me you didn't listen to him.

**Jonathan:** I did listen to him because I'm a good friend. And actually my theory was if I do this quickly then I could be home in bed and sleeping and not have to worry about anything else. But one thing led to another so.

**Celia:** What happened?

**Jonathan:** His pants came down, my leather pants came down. We were in mid swap and then the policeman's spotlight shone right on us.

**Celia:** Oh you are kidding me!

**Richard:** Was he watching you the whole time maybe?

**Jonathan:** The timing was just perfect. So hotel car park after midnight, in your underpants, holding your pants in the air and the policeman is looking at you with the "spot light." You could tell he was trying to keep his voice nice and sober and sensible.

**Richard:** I can see the headlines in the paper the next day.

**Jonathan:** He had a story to tell his mates.

**Celia:** So how did that make you feel?

**Jonathan:** Right, so bare legged, underpants, freezing cold, utterly embarrassed. That's how I felt like I had nowhere to hide. It was a silly situation that I got myself into. I thought yeah maybe this will make a good story sometime down the track. But you know life's like that a lot of the time. You end up in places you don't plan to be and your defences are down, you're completely vulnerable and fragile and it's just another instance like that.

**Celia:** Another one to just chalk up to your long list of....

**Jonathan:** Pretty much. I mean we all get to those points. You think "how did we get here?" Then you trace it back and a little decision here which led to another little decision here and all of a sudden you're a long way away from where you want to be and that's how I felt that night.

**Celia:** My goodness so what happened then?

**Jonathan:** He just sort of smiled and laughed and thankfully turned the spotlight off. We completed our pants transfer. I went home to bed and my mate went to the night club and my leather pants were never the same again!

**Richard:** Have you ever struggled to forgive yourself for doing something stupid? Coming up Jonathan will talk about how he recovered from the night the police caught him with his pants down. And stay tuned to find out how you can get a free copy of his new book.

**Celia:** Today on messages of hope we're talking with Jonathan Krause about those embarrassing moments we'd rather forget. If you've got a story you're brave enough to share, go to our Facebook page Messages of Hope. There's a good chance your story will encourage someone else.

Jonathan what I liked about your story was that here you were at an age where you probably should've known better but you still making mistakes and I feel the same thing. We think, you know you do all those stuff ups when you're younger but I find that I still do them. You know it doesn't matter how much I learn, yes I learned that lesson, I learned that lesson and I do it again!

**Jonathan:** I reckon we learn some of our biggest lessons in life when we have the worst things happen to us. I relate it to my Christian faith. I know God sees me completely bare without all my defences and without all of the protective things I put over myself. And when I think about that, that's pretty scary. That someone can see me in all my vulnerabilities. But then the great thing about God's love is he loves you like that. He doesn't love you perfect and packaged up and nice and neat and tidy. He loves you in your underpants in the hotel car park at midnight and says, "That's where I come to you. That's where I meet you. That's where I love you." So I guess I take that experience, that gives me confidence to do stuff that's like no matter how much I mess things up that God is going to be there to keep on loving me anyway. So it's actually liberating.

**Celia:** Yeah I get what you're saying. But sometimes though the consequences of what we do are small, what about when they're more serious?

**Jonathan:** Being forgiven never releases you from the consequences of your actions so if I do something bad I have to pay the price in the community or in how people accept me or

reject me. That's going to happen but God's forgiveness is separate to that. And I think being forgiven gives you the strength to deal with the consequences of your actions.

**Celia:** And how does knowing that your forgiven make you feel? You know sometimes you get so weighed down by that feeling of guilt and shame. Talk to me about how that is different.

**Jonathan:** Guilt has a very negative impact on the life. It doesn't help you do anything, it drags you down and it impacts the people around you. I think forgiveness frees you from that. So it's almost like it gives you a baseline or a foundation where you can start to rebuild what you've broken down by your mistakes and your actions. If you didn't have that foundation you'd just fall into a deep dark hole and not be able to get out again. So that's how it works for me anyway.

**Celia:** So you feel that acceptance has taken away that really deep dark hurt.

**Jonathan:** Yeah that's right Celia. You don't have to fall into the deep hole. Yes there are arms underneath you picking you up and holding you and then you can work your way out. It's not a magic bullet. You know sometimes you go to church and you hear messages and it's like just believe in God and everything is perfect. Life is wonderful and you'll be rich. It's not like that at all. Life still happens. You still make mistakes. Bad things still happen but you're not doing it on your own anymore.

**Richard:** And it's empowering too. So it's not only that Jesus covers us and we are loved and have that reassurance but he empowers us to live life.

**Jonathan:** Yeah.

**Richard:** Like your book title Come To Life. So when you do get caught with your pants down....

**Jonathan:** You're okay.

**Celia:** We don't have to let shame and guilt trap us in the past. With God's help we can be free of shame and guilt and have hope for the future. For more information about finding freedom from shame and guilt, go to [messagesofhope.org.au](http://messagesofhope.org.au), where you can order your free booklet, UNLOCKING THE PRISON OF GUILT or call 1800 353 350.

**Richard**

I'm Richard Fox, a pastor of the Lutheran Church where love comes to life.

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