

# reSource

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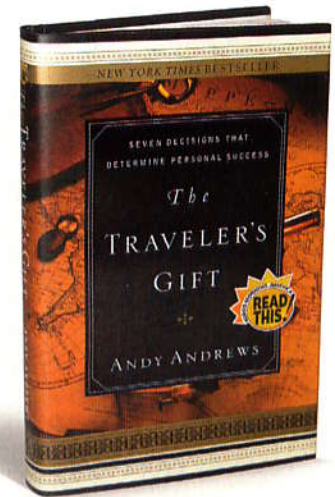
# Seven Decisions to Personal Success

## Andy Andrews talks to Christine Miller

Andy Andrews was one of the keynote speakers at the 2005 National Speakers Association convention I attended this summer in Atlanta, Georgia, and I have to admit I had never heard of him before. His entertaining, engaging style certainly amused the 1600-strong audience, but contained within his stories and jokes were powerful messages concerning the growth and development of ourselves and our planet. Homeless as a young adult, Andy made the discovery that there are seven decisions that work without exception to transform lives. Now, as someone who has been invited to speak by four different US presidents, has performed for the US Military, and delivered speeches for many Fortune 500 companies, Andy has been described as one of the most influential people in America today.

After I contacted his office to arrange this interview, Andy's Chief Solutions Officer, Nick Francis, sent me two books - "The Traveller's Gift" and "Island of Saints" - so I could be fully conversant with his work. I wasn't sure what to expect, although the reviews were excellent, and Andy definitely seemed to have a knack for storytelling. In fact, I found both books powerful, yet easy to read, and those skilful storytelling skills were prominently displayed throughout, making them a joy to read.

I was curious about what had prompted Andy to turn his life round at the age of nineteen, and here's what he told me.



*Christine: Was there a certain something, a defining moment that prompted you to ask yourself the key question "is life just a lottery ticket or are there choices one can make to direct his future?" at a critical point in your life when you were 19 years old and sleeping rough on the streets, that helped you get your life back on track?*

**Andy:** The defining moment that really got me to the point of asking that question was the realisation that I was at the point where I had no money, no family, nobody to help, no car, no place to live, no job. So I really was at my wits' end, and that was the moment when I asked: "Is that all there is in my life?" "Can I control this?" "Is this life just a lottery ticket, and this is my ticket?" So that was when I really started to examine whether life was just chance, or if I had any control at all over my future.

It was those questions that started directing my search, and at that time I started reading. I read between 200 - 300 biographies of these happy, successful, financially secure, influential people and in my search I asked myself what is this about? Were they born this way, or was this something that they did, something that they became. If it was something they did, then how long did it take them to do it, and what exactly did they do. That was how I discovered the seven principles, which I then used for to pull my life out of those circumstances. These later became the Seven Decisions around which I