ANDY ANDREWS

MAKES 'EM LAUGH AT SERIOUS ISSUES

by Chuck Dauphin

Looking at his biography, Andy Andrews has in deed been blessed. He's entertained in front of some of Country Music's most legendary stars and has become personally acquainted with a number of America's most beloved personalities. Andrews, who was a regular performer on Ralph Emery's Nashville Now and has been recognized with several industry nominations and awards (including Music City News), has witnessed amazing highs and just as incredible lows during his lifetime. The Alabama resident found himself homeless at the age of nineteen following the deaths of his parents. That experience made him ask the questions: "Is life just a lottery ticket or is there something that we can do? Does every person just 'get' happiness and a family? Or does he or she just 'end up' under a pier?" Over the years, he began to research the matter. "I read over two hundred biographies to try to find out," he says in his attempt to delve into the reasons why some people enjoy success and some people don't. Upon reading and studying, he determined that each person had seven things in common. Andrews has assembled those traits combined with his humorous approach in a book called THE TRAVELER'S GIFT (Thomas Nelson).

What's this, you ask? A funnyman goes serious? Yes, but don't think that you're going to be in for a lecture in any way. Andrews delivers his material in a thought-provoking, yet funny manner. He says that part of the reason for his "re-invention" comes from someone that he has opened for many times, Kenny Rogers. "Kenny and I were on the bus one night talking about how we grew up and what happened to us as young adults. I got to talking with him about these seven ideas and he was telling me about growing up in Houston, living in a garage with his brothers and sisters. He said 'You oughta add some of this to your shows.' I replied 'In my comedy act?' He said 'yeah.' It actually became one of the more popular parts of the show. People would come up and let me know that while they loved the comedy, they also liked the serious stuff."

That's not always the kind of response a comedian likes to receive, but Andy stuck with it. He started getting calls from corporations and civic organizations asking him to speak. That led to the book, of which he said "is a story of a family that is going through a tough time. The dad gets to travel through time and meets with seven historical figures that are also going through rough times, such as Anne Frank and Harry Truman. Each of them gives him a separate decision, that if put into place in his life,"

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In light of the recent events (The Chesney/Zellweger annulment; Chris Cagle?'s paternity question and Garth and Trisha?'s marriage?) Is Media going overboard?? How much do we REALLY want to know? 

To what extent should the media get involved in publicizing an artist's or celebrity's personal affairs? 

In what instances do you feel the media exploited the celebrity or artist?? 

In what instance do you feel the media appropriately covered a personal tragedy or event? Do you feel it's the media's responsibility to get to the nitty gritty to tell all? 

Would you rather "know all?? or media respect the private affairs of the artist or celebrity? 

Send your answer and/or comments to noelle@musiccitynews.com 

All of the principles outlined in Andy's book, THE TRAVELER'S GIFT, are principles that each and every person can identify with, as Andrews told me. "There's one thing we all have in common. There are people reading this that are going through the worst time of their lives. People we see everyday. One of the things that I want to make sure they know is--it's normal. We're all either in a crisis or headed there. You need to take a breath and realize that you're still here--which means that it's not over yet! What you've been put on earth to accomplish hasn't been fulfilled. This is guaranteed proof that there's more fun to have, more success and more friends to make. Even in the worst times of your life, things are going to get better." 

One thing that keeps Andrews going is his family. Of his home life, he says "my wife and I are raising a 6-year old and a 3-year old, so they keep me working. I write every morning and spend the evenings with my family when I'm not speaking." 

His speaking engagements keep him in high demand, however. Whether speaking in front of a Fortune 500 company, the President of The United States, a Church group, or whatever the crowd, there's something in Andy's words that will ring true for all. For more information about books or tapes by this creative gentleman, log on to www.andyandrews.com